

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ



7:00 PM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 6, 2023

** Please stand if you are able.*

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE: *Ich Ruf Zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 639 by JS Bach*

WELCOME: Pastor David Harvey

CHORAL INTROIT: Chancel Choir

*** CALL TO WORSHIP:** Zach Burke

Leader: On the night of our Lord's arrest, Jesus gathered his disciples in the Upper Room. He gave them a new commandment: Jesus said *"love one another just as I have loved you"* (John 13: 34).

People: **On this night, Jesus, the Lamb of God, surrendered himself into the hands of those who would betray and slay him. Before his arrest and trial, Jesus took a towel and washed his disciples' feet. He gave us a living example that we should do to others as he has done for us.**

Leader: On this night, Jesus gave his disciples and us this holy feast that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may proclaim his holy sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection, and on the last day permit us to reign with him forever and ever. We remember tonight the fullness of Christ's mysterious and miraculous love for us.

People: **With prayer and praise, let us worship God.**

*** HYMN OF PRAISE:** *No. 85 What Wondrous Love Is This* vv. 1 & 2

***What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!***

Cont'd.

***To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *In silence then unison*

Lord Jesus, like Judas, we have betrayed you; like Peter, we have denied you; like the other disciples, we have forsaken you. And yet, you remain faithful to us unto death, even death on the cross. In your mercy, forgive our sin; grant us grace to live life with your humility and hospitality; and awaken within us the joy of your precious salvation; in your holy name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Hear the Good News: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy who forgives our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

People: Amen.

*** CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:** *Give Thanks No. 647 Glory to God*
***Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the holy one,
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.
And now, let the weak say "we are strong," let the poor say
"we are rich because of what the Lord has done for us." Give thanks.***

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERTORY:

Offertory Music: "In Nomine by Christoher Tye"

*** DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION:** *No. 592*
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

DECLARING GOD'S WORD

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 13: 4–13 St. Paul commends the grace of love.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

GOSPEL READING: John 13: 34–35 Jesus institutes the meal of love.

³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

ANTHEM: *In Your House, O Lord* by Jay Turner Chancel Choir

MEDITATION: *Love One Another* Pastor David G. Harvey

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

* **COMMUNION HYMN:** *No. 516* (*vv. 1 & 3*)

Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation

***Lord, we have come at Your own invitation,
chosen by You, to be counted Your friends:
yours is the strength that sustains our vocation,
ours a commitment we know never ends.***

***When, at your table, each time of returning,
vows are renewed, and our courage restored:
may we increasingly glory in learning
all that it means to accept you as Lord.***

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

Elder Zach Burke

This not a Presbyterian table. This is the Lord's Table, and Jesus is the host. Our Savior invites all who are truly sorry for their sins and would humbly put their trust in him to come to the feast which he has prepared. Listen to the gracious words of our Savior Jesus Christ:

This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day. John 6: 40

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear my voice open the door, I will come in to them and eat with them, and they with me. Revelation 3: 20

Elder: Why have we gathered here?

People: We come because we have been called to live out a story

Elder: What story shall we live?

People: The story of God's saving love, revealed in Jesus.

Elder: Where did this story begin?

**People: It was whispered before time began.
It was sung in the melody of Creation.**

Elder: Whose story is this?

People: This story is God's alone to tell. It hums in the rivers and the trees. It whispers in the skies and the seas. It calls to the people of all places. It speaks in our hearts and in our lives.

Elder: Why then should we speak of this story?

People: This story calls our name in Creation and claims our lives through the Cross and the empty tomb, of our redemption. We are it's telling in this time, this space, and this place.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Pastor David Harvey

Pastor: With storytellers of all ages and in all situations, we offer ourselves to the Lord. Let us pray: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God almighty . . . as we pray the prayer Jesus taught, saying:

People: "Our Father, who art . . . forever. Amen."

Pastor: Tell me the story of this night, of this table?

People: The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it.

Pastor: Tell me what he said and did?

People: He said, "This is my body, given and broken for you. Do this in remembrance me."

Pastor: Tell me what he said and did?

People: In the same way, he took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Pastor: This is our common story, our deep memory, our true destiny. Let it be our story-telling, our testimony.

People: We celebrate God's grace that has shaped and shapes our lives.

Pastor: The feast of God for the people of God, let us eat and drink.

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS:

Approach the Table, take the bread, take the cup, and return to your pew.

SHARING THE BREAD:

Jesus said, *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."* (Jn. 6:37) As we eat this bread in remembrance of Christ, may the spirit that is in him be in us also.

DRINKING THE CUP:

Jesus said, *"I am the vine, you are the branches, apart from him, we can do nothing."* Let us drink this cup in remembrance of Christ and may the spirit in which he died be our Spirit.

COMMUNION BLESSING:

Elder Zach Burke

Elder: What is our prayer this day?

People: Ever-gracious and life-giving God, on this holy evening when we have remembered the Last Supper of the Lord Jesus, when his body was broken for us and his blood poured out for us, accept us in spite of our unworthiness. Fill us with mutual love for you and for one another that we may live into Jesus' words and strive to love one another as he loved us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

DEPARTING IN GOD'S NAME

* HYMN:

For Everyone Born (No. 769, vv. 1, 3–5, GTG)

***For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,***

Refrain:

***and God will delight when we are creators
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, ... justice and joy!***

***For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong,***

[Refrain]

***For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live,***

[Refrain]

***For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free,***

[Refrain]

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

Wenn Wir in Höchsten Nöten Sein by JS Bach

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

Community Good Friday Service

Friday, April 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM at the
Blairstown United Methodist Church
10 Stillwater Rd., Blairstown

Easter Worship Services

Easter Sunday, April 9: Blair Lake at 7:00 AM (weather permitting)
First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary at 10:00 AM



THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Greeter: Bill Olivier
Ushers: Stephanie Burke
Pastor: Rev. David Harvey
Ministers: The Congregation
Communion Preparation: Betsy Gervasi
& Erika Wulster

Choir Director: Maggie Morokutti
**Worship Leader & Communion
Assistant:** Zach Burke
Sound System: Theo Padavano
MIDI: Frank Wilson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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